

NEW HAVEN CITY PLAN COMMISSION ADVISORY REPORT

RE: **SMOKE FREE ZONE at 34 Park Street**, Designation of a Zone surrounding the Connecticut Mental Health Center (Alderwoman Jacqueline James-Evans).
REPORT: 1443-11
ADVICE: Approval

BACKGROUND

Connecticut Mental Health Center (CMHC) is attempting to become a smoke free environment for the safety of its staff, patients, and visitors and has requested that the Board of Aldermen designate a "smoke free zone" around its building and campus at 34 Park Street. CMHC already prohibits smoking inside its building, but as with many other work places, this pushes the smokers to the exterior for the occasional smoking break. Yale New Haven Hospital across Park Street has already been designated a "smoke free zone" (CPC1423-15, 12/17/08), as has the area of Hospital of Saint Raphael (CPC 1433-11, 10/21/09), and Alderwoman James-Evans notes that smokers displaced from YNHH surroundings have migrated across the street to CMHC sidewalks to smoke. This has led to individuals or small groups clustered around or near entries and approaches to the building, the very same areas traversed by other staff, visitors and patients. The Zone, bounded by South Frontage Road, Park Street, South Street, and Howard Avenue, would be indicated by a blue line and lettering on the sidewalk indicating the smoke free area as illustrated on the attached map. Signs in English and Spanish would be strategically located to inform all of the no-smoking policy. Smoking cessation programs will be offered to employees and patients.

No information on enforcement is given.

PLANNING CONSIDERATIONS

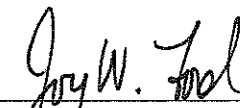
The Commission notes that the Board has allowed other similar notices and zones in the public rights of way such as "Drug Free" zones around schools, prior to its designation of the smoke free zones around the City's two hospitals. Given the enormous public cost related to lung diseases, the already poor air quality in New Haven and the special nature and high concentration of visitors and patients to YNHH and CMHC, extension of the smoke free zone seems a prudent action. Education of employees will be an important component of the zone's success.

ADVICE

The Commission recommends approval of the Smoke Free zone with the condition that plans for marking public rights of way and signage shall be subject to Site Plan Review. The designation of the zone by striping on the sidewalk shall be initiated and maintained by CMHC, and enforcement shall also be CMHC's responsibility.

ADOPTED: August 18, 2010
Edward Mattison
Chair

ATTEST:



Joy W. Ford
Planner II